DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO



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PUBLIC HEALTH EXPANDS PRIMARY CARE SERVICES TO THE HIGH DESERT COMMUNITIES

Hesperia: The Department of Public Health (DPH) is holding a grand opening at the Hesperia Health Center to celebrate its new designation as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).

Location: 16453 Bear Valley Road

Hesperia, CA 92345

Date: Monday April 2, 2012

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The Hesperia Health Center was recently designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration as an FQHC in September 2011. As such, it is one of only two FQHCs serving the High Desert region.

In 2011, DPH developed a plan to establish additional FQHCs in the County through a grant received from the Kaiser Family Foundation through its Community Benefits Grant Program. The goal and objective of the plan is to strengthen the County's healthcare services infrastructure to more effectively and efficiently address the health demands of the uninsured and underinsured populations.

"This additional FQHC site will allow the Department to expand access to preventive and primary care services for the uninsured and underinsured residents," stated Meaghan Ellis, Chief of Nursing/Health Center Director. "The FQHC designation allows the Department to access allocated federal and state grants that are only available to FQHC grantees, which can be used to continue enhancing services for the High Desert communities."

The Hesperia Health Center will provide an array of primary care, mental health, and dental services. County residents will be able to access a range of healthcare services including health screenings, referral services, immunizations, management of acute and chronic diseases, and preventive health education.

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"One out of four High Desert residents is without health insurance, and are unable to receive affordable preventive health care services," stated County Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt. "The FQHCs provide a safety net for residents to access medical services without impacting emergency rooms and other local resources."

The Hesperia Health Center also provides other services, including: Women, Infant, and Children (WIC), Ryan White HIV Care, Every Woman Counts (EWC), Reproductive Health Services, Primary Care under the County Medical Services Plan (CMSP) and ArrowCare, Mental Health, Maternal Health, and Immunizations.

The Department will continue evaluating its service delivery systems to ensure current and future healthcare needs of the community are provided efficiently and cost effectively.

For more information or to access public health services contact the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health at 1 (800) 782-4264 or visit our website at www.sbcounty.gov/dph.

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